

In the Specification

Please delete the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 24 and replace it with the following paragraph:

Accordingly, as the array size increases, yield tends to be poor due to the inherent manufacturing process errors that occur in plastics molding. Since the tolerances on these ferrules must be very accurate, high yield manufacture is very difficult when the array size necessitates two rows and exceptionally difficult for more than two rows.[] .]] Additionally, making ferrules for larger arrays is even more difficult if the holes approach the periphery of the ferrule since the structural integrity of the peripheral walls decreases. In addition, process variations during production cause parts to also have poor tolerance at the periphery. Also, for organic materials and larger connector sizes (for large arrays of optical connections) the distance to neutral point has increased sensitivity to temperature changes and optical loss for connections at the periphery and greatest DNP. In addition, the use of ceramic and / or silicon based reference support for connectors can provide not only X-Y dimensional integrity for the connector but also coplanarity in z direction between mating connector faces to minimize loss between corresponding optical channels compared to other materials used at the connector interface.